

Application No. 10/277,121

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1. (Amended) A tubing cutter to snap onto and circumferentially grasp plastic tubing to facilitate the rotational cutting of the tubing, the cutter comprising:

a cutter body having a front piece removably securable to a back piece such that securement of the front piece and back piece form the body;

a C-shaped grasping portion formed in the body, the grasping portion including an opening and a tube receiving portion, the opening having a width generally less than the width of the tube receiving region such that ~~that~~ wherein the C-shaped grasping portion receives the plastic tubing with snap engagement and securely retains the plastic tubing during the cutting of the tubing; and

a ~~fixed~~ non-movable blade ~~removably~~ secured between the front and back pieces of the body such that ~~an exposed~~ a chordal portion of the blade extends into the grasping portion whereby rotational movement of the engaged cutter around the outer surface of the tubing facilitates cutting.

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2. (Original) The tubing cutter of claim 1, further comprising a gripping portion on the sides of the body to facilitate gripping for engagement and rotational movement of the cutter.
3. (Original) The tubing cutter of claim 1, wherein the inner diameter of the C-shaped grasping portion is smaller than the outer diameter of the tubing.
4. (Amended) The C-shaped tubing cutter of claim 1, wherein the rotational movement causes the chordal [exposed] portion of the fixed blade to cut into the tubing a distance short of the total thickness of the tubing.
5. (Original) The C-shaped tubing cutter of claim 1, wherein the body of the cutter is made of high density polyethylene.
6. (Amended) The C-shaped tubing cutter of claim 1, wherein the [fixed] non-movable blade is a single-edged razor blade.
7. (Original) The C-shaped tubing cutter of claim 1, wherein the front piece and the back piece are removably secured together with fastening means.
8. (Original) The C-shaped tubing cutter of claim 7, wherein the fastening means are screws.

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9. (Amended) The C-shaped tubing cutter of claim 1, wherein the exposed chordal portion of the [fixed] blade is horizontally centered at the bottom of the c-shaped grasping portion.

10. (Original) The C-shaped tubing cutter of claim 1, wherein the body is symmetrical along the axis defining the width and thickness of the body.

11. (Amended) A C-shaped tubing cutter comprising a [fixed] non-movable blade and a C-shaped grasping portion having a tube receiving region and an opening, the opening having a width generally less than the width of the tube receiving region such that the C-shaped grasping portion is capable of snap engagement and circumferential grasping of plastic tubing for rotational cutting of the tubing, wherein the grasping portion makes substantial surface contact around the circumference of the tubing a distance necessary to forcefully receive the tubing, and a chordal portion of the non-movable blade extends into the grasping portion to facilitate cutting of the tubing during rotation.

12. (Original) The tubing cutter of claim 11, wherein the contact around the circumference of the tubing is a distance between 51 to 75 percent of the circumference of the tubing.

13. (Amended) A C-shaped tubing cutter for cutting plastic tubing, comprising [a fixed blade and] a C-shaped grasping portion having an engagement opening with an opening

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distance smaller than the diameter of the plastic tubing and a non-movable blade having an exposed chordal portion extending into the grasping portion, the insertion of the plastic tubing into the engagement opening of the tubing grasping portion causing snap engagement and circumferential grasping of the plastic tubing within the grasping portion.

14. (Cancelled).

15. (Amended) A C-shaped tubing cutter to snap onto and circumferentially grasp plastic tubing to facilitate the rotational cutting of the tubing, the cutter comprising:

a cutter body having a front piece removably securable to a back piece such that securement of the front piece and back piece form the body;

a C-shaped grasping portion formed in the body, the C-shaped grasping portion having a tube receiving region and an opening, the opening spanning a distance generally less than the width of the tube receiving region, [[wherein]] such that the C-shaped grasping portion receives the plastic tubing with snap engagement and securely retains the plastic tubing during the cutting of the tubing;

a gripping portion formed in the body by at least one arcuate depression for human handling of the cutter; and

a [fixed] non-movable blade [removably] secured between the front and back pieces of the body such that [an exposed] a chordal portion of the blade extends into the grasping portion whereby rotational movement of the engaged cutter around the outer surface of the tubing facilitates cutting.

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16. (Amended) A tubing cutter for cutting tubing of a specified diameter, a specified wall thickness and having the cutter comprising:

a body comprising a pair of body pieces each having a face, the body pieces attachable to each other at the faces, at least one of the faces of the body pieces having a recess;

a non-movable cutter blade sandwiched between the two body pieces in said recess and having a chordal portion;

the body having a fixed and integral C-shaped grasping portion configured for extending more than half way around the circumferential surface of the tubing of the specified diameter; and

the C-shaped grasping portion defining a tubing receiving region and an opening, the tube receiving region having a width generally greater than the opening, the chordal portion of the cutter blade positioned to extend into the tubing receiving region a distance less than the specified wall thickness of the tubing.

17. (Original) The tubing cutter of claim 16 further comprising cooperating protrusions and recesses for aligning the body pieces together.

18. (Original) The tubing cutter of claim 16 wherein the cutter blade is a single edged razor blade having a flange.

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19. (Original) The tubing cutter of claim 16 wherein the C-shaped grasping portion has an inner facing circumferential surface with a diameter less than the diameter of the tubing.

20. (Amended) A combination tubing cutter and dual containment tubing comprising an outer tubing of a specified diameter, a specified wall thickness, the tubing cutter for cutting tubing only, the cutter comprising:

a body comprising a pair of body pieces each having a face, the body pieces attachable to each other at the faces, at least one of the faces of the body pieces having a recess;

a non-movable cutter blade sandwiched between the two body pieces in said recess and having a chordal portion;

the body having a fixed and integral C-shaped grasping portion configured for extending more than half way around the circumferential surface of the tubing of the specified diameter; and

the C-shaped portion defining a tubing receiving region and an opening, the tube receiving region having a width generally greater than the opening, the chordal portion of the cutter blade positioned to extend into the tubing receiving region a distance less than the specified wall thickness of the tubing.